



# FLORIDA KEYS

## National Weather Service Forecast Office

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**DRIEST MAY IN KEY WEST IN MORE THAN FIVE DECADES**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> WARMEST MAY IN KEY WEST IN OVER THREE DECADES**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> WARMEST MAY IN MARATHON IN ALMOST THREE DECADES**

THIS PAST MONDAY WRAPPED UP THE DRIEST MAY FOR KEY WEST IN OVER FIFTY YEARS, ENDING AN OVERALL WARM MONTH FOR THE KEYS. ONLY 0.49 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, THIS TIES MAY 1955 AS THE DRIEST ON RECORD GOING BACK TO THE EARLY 1950S. THIS ALSO PLACES 2010 IN A TIE FOR THE NINTH DRIEST MAY ON RECORD IN KEY WEST, SINCE PRECIPITATION RECORDS BEGAN IN 1871. THE DRIEST MAY ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST IS 1927, WHEN THERE WAS NO MEASURABLE RAINFALL RECORDED.

RAINFALL IN KEY WEST RANGED FROM 0.49 INCHES AT THE AIRPORT TO 1.05 INCHES AT THE FORECAST OFFICE ON WHITE STREET. THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT RECORDED A TOTAL OF 0.47 INCHES. MONTHLY RAINFALL AT THE AIRPORT SITES WAS 2.99 AND 2.73 INCHES BELOW NORMAL, AT KEY WEST AND MARATHON RESPECTIVELY.

ACROSS THE KEYS, MONTHLY TOTALS RANGED FROM 0.10 TO 1.78 INCHES; THE DRIEST SITE BEING DRY TORTUGAS NATIONAL PARK, AND BAHIA HONDA STATE PARK REIGNING AS THE WETTEST. BAHIA HONDA WAS ALSO THE ONLY SITE TO REPORT A SURPLUS OF RAIN VERSUS MAY 2009, ALL OTHER SITES CONCLUDED WITH A DEFICIT OF 1.10 TO 6.20 INCHES.

IN CONTRAST TO LAST MONTH, AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURES WERE MORE THAN 6 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT ABOVE APRIL AVERAGES AT THE KEY WEST AND MARATHON AIRPORTS. THE AVERAGE KEY WEST TEMPERATURE WAS 82.1 DEGREES AND AT MARATHON IT WAS 82.4 DEGREES. THIS IS 1.4 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL FOR KEY WEST, AND 2.5 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL FOR MARATHON.

BOTH AIRPORT LOCATIONS EXPERIENCED THEIR THIRD WARMEST MAY ON RECORD, IN OVER THREE DECADES FOR KEY WEST AND ALMOST THREE DECADES FOR MARATHON. THE WARMEST MAY ON RECORD FOR KEY WEST IS 1995, WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 83.5 DEGREES. SINCE 1983 THE WARMEST MAY FOR THE MARATHON/DUCK KEY AREA IS 2003. THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 84.1 DEGREES. MARATHON TIED 1995 FOR THE THIRD WARMEST, AND KEY WEST EDGED OUT THE PREVIOUS THIRD PLACE HOLDERS OF 1997 AND 2003 BY ONE TENTH OF A DEGREE. THIS ALSO RANKS AS THE SEVENTH WARMEST MAY IN KEY WEST SINCE RECORDKEEPING BEGAN IN 1873.

MONTHLY AVERAGES WERE ASSISTED BY WARMER NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES IN MAY. ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup>, 11<sup>TH</sup>, AND 31<sup>ST</sup> HIGH MINIMUM TEMPERATURES TIED PREVIOUS RECORDS, THE OLDEST BEING ON THE 31<sup>ST</sup> WHEN IT TIED 82 DEGREES SET BACK IN 1985. THIS WAS THE WARMEST NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURE OF THE MONTH, A TREND CARRYING OVER TO THIS MONTH. JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> HAVE BOTH SET NEW RECORDS WITH REGARD TO MINIMUM TEMPERATURES OF 82 DEGREES. THESE REPLACE THE PREVIOUS RECORDS OF 81 DEGREES, MOST RECENTLY SET ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> IN 2000 AND ON THE 2<sup>ND</sup> BACK IN 1992.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR MAY ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN, COMPARING 2010 TO 2009 AND THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

**MAY RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2009 IN INCHES**

<b>Station – Station Type</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>Dep. fm Normal</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Dep. fm 2009</b>
Dry Tortugas National Park – COOP	0.10		1.20	-1.10
Key West WFO – NWS	1.05	-2.43	3.51	-2.46
Key West International Airport – ASOS	0.49	-2.99	3.87	-3.38
Big Coppitt Key – CoCoRaHS	0.36		5.23	-4.87
Cudjoe Key – CoCoRaHS	1.68		5.35	-3.67
Bahia Honda State Park – COOP	1.78		1.05	+0.73
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – ASOS	0.47	-2.73	5.16	-4.69
Curry Hammock State Park – COOP	0.89	-2.31	2.09	-1.20
Islamorada – COOP	0.59		6.79	-6.20
John Pennekamp State Park – COOP	0.59		5.55	-4.96
Key Largo – CoCoRaHS	0.79		5.65	-4.86

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST LOCATIONS ARE THE AVERAGE OF 1979-2000 AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND FOR THE MARATHON AREA THEY ARE THE AVERAGE SPANNING 1982-2004 AT DUCK KEY. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED AT THE MARATHON AIRPORT DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF ASOS DATA.